

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 12, 15, 23-27, 29-30, 32-33, 39, 42-43, 51, and 53-55 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A system for detecting an annotated anchor in a displayed electronic document stored in a processor-readable storage medium, comprising:
  - a first code in the processor-readable storage medium for locating an annotation in on the displayed electronic document, wherein the annotation can be positioned anywhere on the displayed electronic document by the reader; and,
  - a second code in the processor-readable storage medium for detecting the closest anchor to the annotation, proximate to or within the annotation, the presence of an anchor, wherein the processor-readable storage medium communicates the first code and the second code to a processor to detect the annotated anchor in on the displayed electronic document and to perform at least one process on the annotated anchor.
2. (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein said second code detects an anchor which represents an explicit link to at least one other location.
3. (Original): The system of claim 1 wherein said second code detects an anchor which represents an implicit link to at least one other location.
4. (Original): The system of claim 1 further including a data structure referencing said annotated anchor.

5. (Previously presented): The system of claim 1 further including a third code in the processor-readable storage medium for processing said annotated anchor.

6. (Original): The system of claim 5 wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes generating a data structure including said annotated anchor.

7. (Original): The system of claim 6 wherein said data structure includes a plurality of annotated anchors.

8. (Original): The system of claim 7 wherein said plurality of annotated anchors are obtained from at least one electronic document.

9. (Original): The system of claim 7 wherein said plurality of annotated anchors in said data structure are displayed in a format.

10. (Previously presented): The system of claim 9 wherein said format includes displaying said plurality of annotated anchors according to annotation metadata.

11. (Previously presented): The system of claim 9 wherein said format includes displaying said plurality of annotated anchors according to annotated anchor metadata.

12. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 11 wherein said plurality of annotated anchors each represent a link to at least one target; and wherein said annotated anchor metadata

includes a number of anchors within said displayed electronic document representing said target.

13. (Previously presented): The system of claim 11 wherein said plurality of annotated anchors each represent a link to at least one target; and wherein said annotated anchor metadata includes a number of annotated anchors representing said target.

14. (Previously presented): The system of claim 9 wherein said plurality of annotated anchors each represent a link to at least one target; and wherein said format includes displaying said annotated anchors according to target metadata.

15. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 14 wherein said target is a second electronic document.

16. (Previously presented): The system of claim 5 wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor further comprises causing the system to add said annotated anchor to a data structure based on at least one attribute value.

17. (Original): The system of claim 16 wherein said data structure includes a plurality of annotated anchors which have said at least one attribute value.

18. (Previously presented): The system of claim 17 wherein said plurality of annotated anchors which have said at least one attribute value are obtained from a plurality of electronic documents.

19. (Previously presented): The system of claim 17 wherein said plurality of annotated anchors which have said at least one attribute value in said data structure are displayed in a format.

20. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19 wherein said format includes displaying said annotated anchors which have said at least one attribute value according to annotation metadata.

21. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19 wherein said format includes displaying said annotated anchors which have said at least one attribute value according to annotated anchor metadata.

22. (Previously presented): The system of claim 19 wherein said annotated anchors which have said at least one attribute value each represent a link to at least one target; and wherein said format includes displaying said annotated anchors which have said at least one attribute value according to target metadata.

23. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 22 wherein said target is a second electronic document.

24. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 5 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to at least a first target; and wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes locating a second electronic document which includes a reference to said first target.

25. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 24 wherein said second electronic document contains a second annotated anchor representing a link to at least a second target; and wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes locating at least a second electronic document which includes a reference to said first and second targets.

26. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 5 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to at least a second electronic document; and wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes obtaining said second electronic document.

27. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 26 wherein said second electronic document is obtained prior to a reader requesting said second electronic document.

28. (Original): The system of claim 5 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to at least one target; and wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes detecting a second anchor representing a link to said target; and propagating said annotation to said second anchor.

29. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 28 wherein said second anchor is within said electronic document.

30. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 28 wherein said second anchor is within a second electronic document.

31. (Original): The system of claim 5 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to at least one target; and wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes detecting a second anchor representing a link to said target; and suppressing a display of said second anchor.

32. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 31 wherein said second anchor is within said electronic document.

33. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 31 wherein said second anchor is within a second electronic document.

34. (Original): The system of claim 5 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to at least one target; and wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes identifying, in a hypertext structure, a node representing said target; and propagating said annotation to said node.

35. (Original): The system of claim 34 wherein said code for processing includes identifying, in said hypertext structure, a connecting object representing said link, and altering said connecting object.

36. (Original): The system of claim 5 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to at least one target; and wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes

identifying, in a hypertext structure, a node representing said target; and suppressing a display of said node.

37. (Original): The system of claim 36 wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes identifying, in said hypertext structure, an object representing said link and suppressing a display of said object.

38. (Original): The system of claim 5 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to at least one target; and wherein said third code for processing said annotated anchor includes displaying said annotated anchor and said target.

39. (Currently Amended): A method for detecting and processing a plurality of annotated anchors in a plurality of electronic documents stored in a processor-readable storage medium, comprising the steps of:

- (a) locating an annotation in a displayed electronic document stored in the processor-readable storage medium, wherein the annotation can be positioned anywhere on the displayed electronic document by the reader;
- (b) detecting the closest anchor to the annotation, proximate to or within the annotation, the presence of an anchor;
- (c) processing the annotated anchor wherein the processing step further comprises adding the annotated anchor to a data structure of annotated anchors; and displaying the data structure of the annotated data anchors; and,
- (d) repeating steps (a) – (c) for each annotation in the plurality of electronic documents.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented): The method of claim 39 wherein step (c) includes the steps of:

adding annotated anchors including at least one selected attribute to a data structure.

42. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 39 wherein said annotated anchors each represent a link to at least one target; and wherein step (c) includes the step of:

locating at least a second electronic document which includes a reference to at least one of said targets.

43. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 39 wherein at least one of said annotated anchors represent a link to a second electronic document; and wherein step (c) includes the steps of:

determining whether said second electronic document is stored in said system; and  
obtaining said second electronic document if not already stored.

44. (Original): The method of claim 39 wherein step (c) includes the steps of:

determining a target of said annotated anchor;  
detecting a second anchor representing a link to said target; and,  
propagating said annotation to said second anchor.

45. (Original): The method of claim 39 wherein step (c) includes the steps of:  
determining a target of said annotated anchor;  
detecting a second anchor representing a link to said target; and,  
suppressing a display of said second anchor.

46. (Original): The method of claim 39 wherein step (c) includes the steps of:  
determining a target of said annotated anchor;  
detecting a node, in a hypertext structure, representing said target; and,  
propagating said annotation to said node.

47. (Original): The method of claim 46 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to said target; and wherein step (c) further includes the steps of:  
detecting an object, in said hypertext structure, representing said link; and,  
altering said object.

48. (Original): The method of claim 39 wherein step (c) includes the steps of:  
determining a target of said annotated anchor;  
detecting a node, in a hypertext structure, representing said target; and,  
suppressing said node.

49. (Original): The method of claim 48 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to said target; and wherein step (c) further includes the steps of:  
detecting an object, in the hypertext structure, representing said link; and,

suppressing the display of said object.

50. (Original): The method of claim 39 wherein said annotated anchor represents a link to at least one target; and wherein step (c) includes the step of:  
displaying simultaneously, said annotated anchor and said target.

51. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for detecting at least one annotated anchor in an electronic document stored in a processor-readable storage medium, the apparatus comprising:  
a processor;  
the processor-readable storage medium in communication with the processor, containing processor-readable program code for programming the apparatus to:  
detect each annotation in the electronic document, wherein the annotation can be positioned anywhere on the displayed electronic document by the reader;  
detect the closest anchor to each annotation, proximate to or within each annotation, the presence of an anchor; and,  
generate a data structure including each annotated anchor.

52. (Original): The apparatus of claim 51 further including processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:  
filter the data structure to include only annotated anchors which contain at least one selected attribute.

53. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 51 further including processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:

locate a second electronic document containing a reference to at least one of said annotated anchors included in said data structure.

54. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 51 further including processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:

determine a target electronic document for each annotated anchor included in said data structure;

identify whether the target electronic document is stored within the apparatus;

obtain a copy of the target electronic document if not stored.

55. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 51 further including processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:

determine a target electronic document for said annotated anchor;

identify additional anchors which represent a link to said target electronic document; and propagate said annotation to said identified additional anchors.

56. (Original): The apparatus of claim 51 further including processor readable program code for programming the apparatus to:

determine a target for said annotated anchor;

identify, in a hypertext structure, a node representing said target; and propagate said annotation to said node.